



CITY OF GUNNISON PARKS AND RECREATION

Park and Recreation Department March/ Oct 2015 Report

One of our main highlights this year was completing our Park and Recreation Master Plan. This project was partially funded by A GOCO grant of \$52,000 along with a City contribution of \$25,000. Our last master plan was completed in 1996 and we have been fortunate to complete the majority of the recommendations from that plan which included an indoor ice rink, Community Center, Pool, Trail work and Skate Park. During a recent educational session I attended at the Park and Rec Conference we learned that 87% of all planning efforts fail. We are proud to say that we are in that 13% that succeed. We now have a workable document along with the all-important funding strategy that will allow us to continue to provide wonderful park and rec amenities into the future. Although we did not have great attendance at the public input sessions we did have great input from our stakeholder meetings and return on our surveys was excellent. We now have a strategy to work toward the future.

The Senior Addition was somewhat of an extra project that we decided was an important component to bolster senior participation in the Community Center. While we always allocated space in the facility for senior activities, those numbers have diminished substantially over the years. The social aspect of getting people out and keeping them active is highly important to their wellbeing. We are targeting the dowers, people who want a purpose and need to stay involved. I believe that our future offerings for this age group will keep our seniors healthy and active. While this is a challenging group, we challenged them right back. The foundation grants that we targeted required 30% of the project funding had to be raised locally. The Boomers were charged with raising \$50,000, an amount that we have not seen from any group for any project that we have undertaken. The fundraising committee did everything imaginable to raise funds. Most of the donations were of \$100 or less. We then leveraged El Pomar, Gates, Boettcher and Daniels foundations. The project scope increased adding two restrooms and square footage. Ken came through with a final DOLA grant to put us over the top. We were highly disappointed not to have one single local contractor bid the job. Our sole bidder from Fountain Colorado met the bid specs and our budget and we proceeded to award the bid. Very few local subs bothered to bid work within the project and if they did their bids were substantially higher. We can only assume that our locals had plenty of work. I believe that we have a good sound building that will serve us for many years. Dan V has begun working with the Boomers to create some fall and winter program offerings that will help keep the area busy.

Events played a huge role for our entire staff this year we all had to pitch in to make the early events successful and I am proud of the quality that we provided. We brought Andy Efflin on June 1st and he was immediately immersed in planning events. We only ever seemed to have enough time to plan for the next event on the schedule with little opportunity for advanced planning for events later in the calendar. Andy performed admirably. He had excellent contacts from working with the CB chamber in the past planning their events. He also has a strong business sense and was able to garner partnerships and solicit funds in ways that we have not seen before. I am sure that he was overwhelmed at times and our staff readily pitched in to assist in any way we could. It will be interesting to see what he can accomplish when given a full year to plan events in advance. Meanwhile immediately after the Triathlon

it was time to get the rink up and running. We have always felt like ice season was our biggest event as it continues to bring in dollars throughout the fall and winter season. Preparation of ice season is always accomplished with the assistance of our Parks crew and they have the experience and know how to start the season. Andy is adjusting very well to his new role.

After experiencing a downturn in our Community Center revenue in 2014 we proposed raising our rates to help gain back and exceed the shortfall. In hindsight we allowed the fees to remain the same for too many years. The increase brought us to a level above our 2014 revenues by \$20,000 and we expect that our numbers will continue to grow through the fourth quarter of 2015. We plan to initiate an increase in our facility rentals in 2015 and expect to bump our memberships and daily fees again in 2017 to keep pace with the ever increasing repair and maintenance costs.

Our City Parks looked better this summer than ever. All turf areas provided great playing surfaces for our programs and users. The parks crew plan for water, irrigation, fertilization, weed eradication and mowing is working great. Some of our turf areas get hammered, the car show is a great example, however the turf was ready for football season the very next week. Parks assisted with preparing the sight for the Senior addition and has begun to repair the landscaping for next season. They completed the landscaping for the east and west entry signage and continue to work on the west side of the community center. Parks also trouble shoots many of the issues that arise at the Community Center and ice rink saving us countless dollars in repair and maintenance of hiring contract assistance. Still to come this fall will be the installation of two vault restroom buildings at the Taylor Mountain Park and replacement of the restroom at Legion Park.

I am pleased to report that we have a good solid crew of employees who are willing to work as a park and rec team. We function well as a team and individuals have no problem crossing over to assist with other aspects of our operation that may not be their direct responsibility. For any of us to succeed we all have to succeed.

Each supervisor has the opportunity to provide a report for council to highlight their accomplishments during the last six months. Their reports are attached.

Sincerely,

Dan Ampietro